

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability, comprising:

a receive signal from a telephone line;

a hybrid echo canceller;

an automatic gain control module;

~~a summer in said receive path;~~

~~a gain module;~~

a message playback module to playback a message playback signal relating to a user pre-recorded voice message; and

~~a record module adapted to record said receive signal from said telephone line during a conversation on said speakerphone;~~

a combiner to combine wherein said message playback signal is combined with said receive signal into said receive path before said automatic gain control and after an output of said hybrid echo canceller allowing said message playback signal to be heard by said near-end party at a comparable level as said receive signal during speakerphone operation by said summer[[,]] ~~allowing continuous hearing of said message playback signal by a far near end party over said telephone line while said far end party is simultaneously speaking[[,]]~~ allowing full-duplex communications.

2. (previously presented) The receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 1, further comprising:

a switched loss echo suppression module in said receive path.

3. (currently amended) The receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 1, further comprising:

a record module adapted to record said receive signal from said telephone line during a conversation on said speakerphone

~~a hybrid echo canceler adapted to remove a transmit signal from said receive signal, said transmit signal including said message playback signal;~~

~~wherein said message playback signal is combined in said receive path at a point after said hybrid echo canceler.~~

4. (original) The receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 1, further comprising:

a message gain module between said message playback signal and said summer.

5. (original) The receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 4, wherein said message gain module comprises:

an automatic gain control portion; and
a fixed gain portion.

6. (original) The receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 1, wherein said gain module comprises:

a automatic gain control portion; and
a fixed gain control portion.

7. (original) The receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 2, wherein:

said switched loss echo suppression module is located in said receive path at a point after said gain module.

8. (previously presented) The receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 2, further comprising:

a digital to analog converter in said receive path at a point after said switched loss echo suppression module.

9. (original) The receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 1, further comprising:

a receive voice activity detector in communication with said receive path, said receive voice activity detector indicating a receive condition of said speakerphone.

10. (original) The receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 1, wherein:

said voice messaging system is a telephone answering device.

11. (original) The receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 1, further comprising:

a conversational record signal formed from a gained representation of said receive signal summed with a gained representation of a transmit signal to said telephone line.

12. (original) The receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 11, wherein:

said gained representation of said receive signal is formed using both automatic gain control and fixed gain.

13. (original) The receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 11, wherein:

said gained representation of said transmit signal is formed using both automatic gain control and fixed gain.

14. (currently amended) A method of allowing a playback message signal to be combined with a receive signal in a voice messaging system having speakerphone capability, comprising:

automatic gain controlling said playback message signal;

hybrid echo canceling a transmit signal from a said receive signal at a summer in a receive path of a voice messaging system having speakerphone capability; and

summing combining a playback message signal comprising a user recorded voice message together with said receive signal into a receive path of said voice messaging system before performing said automatically gain controlling and after performing said hybrid echo canceling said receive signal allowing said playback message signal to be heard by a near-end party at a comparable level as said receive signal during speakerphone operation

echo canceled signal at a point in said receive path after said summer; and

recording said receive signal during a conversation on said speakerphone while allowing continuous hearing of said playback message signal by a far end party over said telephone line while said far end party is simultaneously speaking, allowing full duplex communications.

15. (currently amended) Apparatus for allowing a playback message signal to be combined with a receive signal in a voice messaging system having speakerphone capability, comprising:

means for automatic gain controlling;

means for hybrid echo canceling ~~a transmit signal from a said~~ receive signal ~~at a summer~~ in a receive path of a voice messaging system having speakerphone capability; and

means for summing combining a playback message signal ~~comprising a user recorded voice message together~~ with said receive signal into a receive path of said voice messaging system before said means for automatic gain controlling and after said means for hybrid echo canceling said receive signal allowing said playback message signal to be heard by a near-end party at a comparable level as said receive signal during speakerphone operation

~~echo canceled signal at a point in said transmit receive path after said summer; and~~

~~means for recording said receive signal during a conversation on said speakerphone while allowing continuous hearing of said playback message signal by a far end party over said telephone line while said far end party is simultaneously speaking, allowing full-duplex communications.~~

16. (currently amended) A method of playing back a recorded voice message, comprising:

establishing a telephone call;

initiating a speakerphone function of a near end voice messaging device in said telephone call;

playing back a voice message recorded on said near end voice messaging system while said telephone call remains established; and

hybrid echo canceling a receive signal;

automatic gain controlling said voice message;

injecting an electrical signal corresponding to said played back voice message into a receive path of said voice messaging device before performing said automatic gain controlling and after performing said hybrid echo canceling allowing said playback message signal to be heard by a near-end party at a comparable level as said receive signal while ~~into said telephone call such that~~ individual users at either end of said telephone call can continuously hear said played voice message and concurrently converse with one another as desired during speakerphone operation.

17. (original) The method of playing back a recorded voice message according to claim 14, wherein:

said voice messaging system is a telephone answering device.

18. (previously presented) The method of playing back a recorded voice message according to claim 16, wherein:

said electrical signal is injected digitally.

19. (currently amended) Apparatus for playing back a recorded voice message, comprising:

means for hybrid echo canceling;

means for automatic gain controlling;

means for establishing a telephone call;

means for initiating a speakerphone function of a near end voice messaging device in said telephone call;

means for playing back a voice message recorded on said near end voice messaging system while said telephone call is established; and

means for injecting an electrical signal corresponding to said played back voice message into a receive path of said voice messaging device before said means for automatic gain controlling and after said means for hybrid echo canceling on said receive signal allowing said playback message signal to be heard by a near-end party at a comparable level as said receive signal while into
~~said telephone call such that~~ individual users at either end of said telephone call can continuously hear said played voice message and concurrently converse with one another as desired during speakerphone operation.

20. (original) The apparatus for playing back a recorded voice message according to claim 17, wherein:

said voice messaging system is a telephone answering device.

21. (previously presented) The apparatus for playing back a recorded voice message according to claim 19, wherein:

means for injecting said electrical signal injects said signal digitally.

22. (canceled)

23. (new) The method of allowing a playback message signal to be combined with a receive signal in a voice messaging system having speakerphone capability, apparatus for playing back a recorded voice message according to claim 14, further comprising:

recording said receive signal during a conversation on said speakerphone while allowing continuous hearing of said playback message signal by a far end party over said telephone line while said far end party is simultaneously speaking, allowing full-duplex communications.

24. (new) The apparatus for playing back a recorded voice message according to claim 15, further comprising:

means for recording said receive signal during a conversation on said speakerphone while allowing continuous hearing of said playback message signal by a far end party over said telephone line while said far end party is simultaneously speaking, allowing full-duplex communications.

25. (new) The receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 1, further comprising:

a record module adapted to record said receive signal from said telephone line during a conversation on said speakerphone.

26. (new) A receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability, comprising:

- a receive signal from a telephone line;
- a speakerphone microphone;
- a speakerphone loudspeaker;
- a hybrid echo canceller;
- an automatic gain control module;
- a message playback module to playback a message playback signal; and

a combiner to combine said message playback signal with said receive signal into said receive path before said automatic gain control and after an output of said hybrid echo canceller allowing said message playback signal to be heard by said near-end party at a comparable level as said receive signal over said speakerphone loudspeaker.

27. (new) The receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 26, further comprising:

- a switched loss echo suppression module in said receive path.

28. (new) The receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 26, further comprising:

- a record module adapted to record said receive signal from said telephone line during a conversation on said speakerphone.

29. (new) The receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 1, further comprising:

- a message gain module between said message playback signal and said summer.